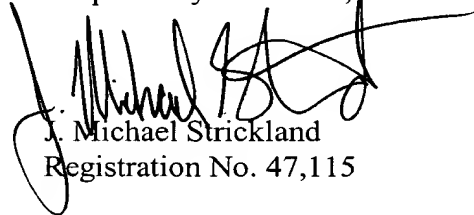


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In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request favorable examination and allowance of Claims 23-44.

Respectfully submitted,

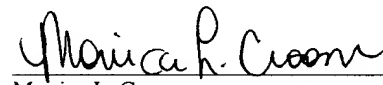

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on June 7, 2001.



Monica L. Croom
Date of Signature: June 7, 2001



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